

Sanderson makes kids smile through Operation Toy Box

MELISSA BOYETTE
Staff Reporter

Christy Sanderson is not your typical college student. She is the founder and president of the non-profit organization Operation Toy Box. Originally from Wake Forest, Sanderson is a freshman considering majoring in business administration as she fulfills her many duties as president of her newly-founded organization. Her mom, Carol, is the vice-president, and she also works in the Office of Financial Aid here at Meredith.

With a seven-member board of trustees, Operation Toy Box is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing new or used toys, books, puzzles, games, and videos to children whose lives have been affected by disaster.

It began in 1995 as Sanderson sat in her living room watching a WRAL-TV 5 report on the destruction Hurricane Marilyn had caused to the U.S. Virgin Islands. In the report, she saw a little boy pushing a cart with a beat-up fire truck inside it. He turned to the camera and smiled, and in doing so, touched her heart. She began to cry

and said, "I have a room full of stuffed animals, and this little boy with only one toy can smile."

Over the last two years, this boy's one smile has provided many other children with smiles.

With the help of her mom and various other volunteers and donations, Sanderson sent 6,000 toys to the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, this step was just the beginning for this project.

Later in 1997, Operation Toy Box provided toys to kids who were affected by the flood in North Dakota. With the help of volunteers, over 10,000 toys were collected.

Operation Toy Box is now in partnership with the Raleigh Chapter of the American Red Cross, an organization that provides an avenue for them to get and to send toys. About two weeks ago, Operation Toy Box received its confirmation from the IRS that it is now an official non-profit corporation. Approximately 4,000 of the collected toys are being stored in Operation Toy Box's building in Wake Forest.

Sanderson has received numerous thank-you and recognition letters for

her work from people and organizations like the House of Representatives, Wesleyan Academy, and the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. She also has been featured in the newspaper *The News & Observer* and in other papers like the *Franklin Times*, *Herald Sun*, and *Chicago Tribune*. She even has been on WRAL-TV 5, NBC 17, and WTVD-11.

People Magazine visited Sanderson and toured Meredith September 24. She said, "It was an experience that I will always remember. I had so much fun!" With two photographers snapping pictures constantly, she said it was a relief they did not follow her to class, but she missed them when they left. Sanderson, the interviewer, and the photographers ate in the Beehive. She said as she ate her bagel and drank her hot chocolate, they made her feel like a celebrity for the day.

Sanderson stressed the importance of volunteers to Operation Toy Box. She stated, "It is important to me to see kids smile, and I feel so good knowing that I've made a difference in a child's life." She also said, "Most people who come to volunteer usually plan to only

stay for a couple of hours, but they sometimes stay a lot longer."

She feels Meredith is a good outlet for volunteers. This year, Operation Toy Box is also participating in Family Day, and they will have clowns, face-painting, and storytelling.

As she continues with her classes and activities here at Meredith, she still finds time to devote to her organization. When asked how she handles

all of the personal publicity, she quickly said, "This project is me. It is my life."

Sanderson is a dedicated, sincere, and giving person who devotes all of her time and energy to anything that she believes in, and she encourages anyone who would be interested in being a volunteer for Operation Toy Box to give her a call. She said, "We are always in need of extra volunteers."



Freshman Christy Sanderson will be featured in *People Magazine* for her initiative in bringing Operation Toy Box to children in need.

Photo by Rebecca Tinsley

Visiting lecturer Doug Adams connects religion and art

BETH HALL
News Editor

Dr. Doug Adams delivered his lecture "Discerning Biblical Themes in Contemporary Art and Film" to a nearly full Ledford 101 Sept. 23.

Adams, 52, was briefly introduced by Dr. Bob Vance, head of the religion department. Vance informed the audience of Adam's current position as professor of Christianity and the Arts at the Pacific School of Religion and as the doctoral faculty of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, CA. Adams' achievements include writing six books, around 150 articles, and nearly 40 book reviews, and lecturing at over 70 art, dance, or religion departments in colleges, universities, and seminaries.

Dr. Bernie Cochran, a religion professor, said of Adams, "It is rare to find someone with such credentials in both areas (art and religion)."

Vance said, "Adams puts art in the larger perspective of Western culture."

Adams said that our perception of art is based on our perspective or what we expect. Adams examined several pieces of contemporary art by George Segal, Stephen De Staebler, Jasper Johns, and Christo, and brought the audience's attention to the arts' use of religious symbolism.

Adams is a northern Illinois native who grew up in the congregation of the

United Church of Christ. After graduating from high school, he planned to go into the ministry so he enrolled at Duke where he received his B.A. While he was at Duke during the 1960s, Adams began to see the impact of art on religion and vice versa.

One example of this impact he saw in the changed attitude of his roommate. This roommate had a very "you get what you deserve" attitude. After he saw Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*, his perspective changed. In the story a thief is forgiven unconditionally by the man he robbed. This scene taught Adams' roommate about the beauty of grace.

Senior Erika Sexton, an art major, said she attended the lecture to learn about the religious aspects of art that teachers usually overlook in preference for political and abstract ideas.

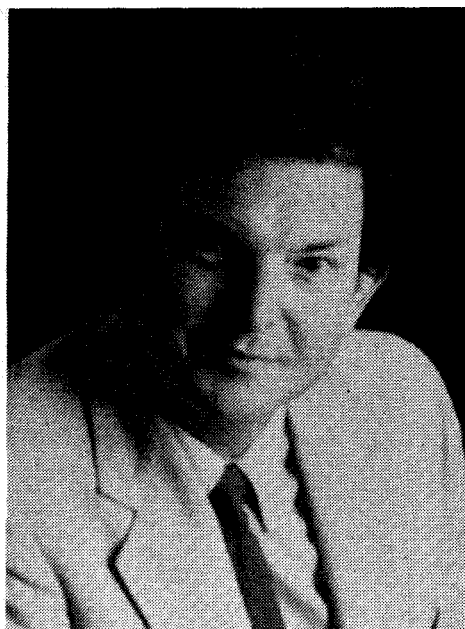
Blue Greenberg, associate professor of art and faculty emeritus, appreciated Adams' sense of humor. "He has real knowledge of both art and reli-

gion," she said.

Vance said Adams' lecture was exciting and provocative and that it "brought new insight into the latest in art which includes ancient themes."

Adams' lecture was funded by the Mercer/Kesler fund. This fund was created by the Mercer and Kesler families to honor Isaac Mercer, a former teacher, and John Kesler, a former trustee, both of whom were interested in art and religion. The lecture fund has been used nearly annually for 5 years.

Any
submissions for
the *Herald* are
due every
MONDAY
at 1 pm
in the box
outside of
208 Cate.



Dr. Doug Adams visited with art and religion students throughout his lecture series at Meredith College.

Photo submitted by Dr. Doug Adams

CAREER CONNECTIONS

Meredith College
Career Center

* CC Orientation Sessions

(Especially for Teacher Candidates)

- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 4 pm (Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors)
- Friday, Oct. 10, 10 am
- Friday, Oct. 24, 10 am

* CC Workshops

How to write and Effective Resume. This workshop will provide tips on how to develop and structure a professional resume.

- Friday, Oct. 3, 10 am
 - Friday, Oct. 17, 10 am
 - Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30 pm
- How to Sell Yourself in the Job Interview:* Learn skills and techniques to make the most of your job interviews.
- Monday, Oct. 6, 10 am
 - Tuesday, Oct. 28, 5:30 pm